

SOUTH-WEST CONFERENCE
SOCCER RULES – BOYS AND GIRLS
2023-2024

I. RULES

- A. All conference games will be played according to the rules established by the National Federation of State High School Associations and the CIAC.
- B. Balls used for SWC games shall be sanctioned by the NFHS, a ball mutually agreed upon by both coaches, or a ball agreed on by one coach and the officials prior to the game.
- C. CIAC Rules for the state tournament championship shall be followed in determining a conference champion. Exception: the SWC will use sudden victory to determine a winner in OT periods.
- D. The host school for all conference contests and conference championship games shall be responsible for all game arrangements including scorers, timers and ball boys/girls.
- E. SWC play-off game sites (semifinals and finals) will be selected using the SWC procedure for selecting tournament sites.
- F. Only school recognized personnel are allowed in the bench area.
- G. All conference games will consist of two 40-minute halves of regulation time. If a tie exists at the end of regulation time during a regular season game, a tie will be declared.
- H. If the officials terminate a game due to fighting by both teams, each team will be given a 0-2 loss. The game will not be played over in whole or in part.
- I. The CIAC policy regarding yellow and red cards will be used throughout the league during the regular season. All individual cards accrued during the regular season are wiped clean to start the SWC tournament. If a player receives a third (3rd) individual yellow card in the last regular season game then the player is disqualified in the SWC quarterfinal game (per CIAC regulations). Any player receiving two (2) yellow cards during the SWC tournament shall be disqualified from participating in the next SWC tournament game in the same season.
- J. In the event of a suspended tournament game, CIAC rules shall apply. CIAC rule 11.8 states that "...a game (that is) suspended in the first half or the second half will be rescheduled and play continued from the point of suspension with the score the same as when the game was suspended".
- K. In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an **official** game if one half or more of the game has been played. If less than one-half of the game has been played, the game must be restarted from the beginning with the score 0-0.

Note: an official game means the game is over, the score stands and the game may not be resumed on another day under any circumstance.

II. SCHEDULES

- A. The SWC Scheduling Coordinator will develop the schedule. The schedule must be approved by the athletic directors.
- B. Postponed games will be played the next available date. Except for the last week of the season, teams will not be required to play three days in a row. The two Saturdays prior to the league playoffs are mandatory makeup dates. Teams are strongly encouraged to utilize Saturdays throughout the season for makeups.
- C. The home team determines the start time of games.

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III. OFFICIALS

- A. Only officials who are members of a recognized board of soccer officials may be used for varsity contests. Every attempt should be made to secure certified board officials for sub-varsity contests. No less than two officials must be used in all varsity contests. Teams have the option of using three officials in contests in varsity contests as well.

IV. LEAGUE AND DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. Boys/Girls--The league champion will be determined by a post-season tournament, to be played at the end of the regular season and before the CIAC Tournament. The division champion will be the team that finishes in first place in its division during the regular season. All league games count for the division championship. If two or more teams tie for the division championship, then head-to-head competition shall break the tie. If head-to-head competition cannot break the tie, then co-division champions shall be declared. The top team in each division and the next six teams with the highest point totals will qualify for the play-off. Point totals will be determined in the following manner:

Each win equals three points; each tie equals one point; each loss equals zero points.

- B. Tie-Breaking Procedure: In the event two or more teams are tied for the purpose of seeding, qualifying for the tournament, or determining which team receives the automatic tournament bid for inclusion in the league tournament in the event of a tie for the division championship, the procedure for breaking ties shall be as follows:
1. If two teams are tied, the tie is broken based on head to head results.
 2. If the two teams are still tied, the team with the most league wins breaks the tie.
 3. If the two teams are still tied, the team that defeated or tied the highest ranked opponent breaks the tie.
 4. If two teams are still tied, assign a point value of three (3) for a red card and one (1) for a yellow card. The tie is broken in favor of the team with the lower point value when red and yellow cards are added. This information may be obtained from the CIAC office.
 5. If two teams are tied, the tie shall be broken by lot.
 6. If three or more teams are tied for one or more spots, the team with the most points in head to head competition shall break the tie. If one or more teams win the tiebreaker or are eliminated by the tiebreaker and two teams are still tied, revert to the procedure for two teams to break the tie.
 7. If three or more teams are still tied, the team(s) with the most league wins will break the tie.
 8. If three or more teams are still tied, the team(s) that defeated the higher ranked opponent breaks the tie.
 9. If three or more teams are still tied, follow procedure #4.
 10. If three or more teams are still tied, the tie shall be broken by lot.
- C. After the teams are ranked, they will play each other in the quarterfinal round on either Friday or Saturday. Throughout the tournament, the *higher ranked team* will be designated the *home team*. The quarterfinals and semifinals will be played at the home of the higher seeded team. The sites for the finals will be determined once the teams that will play in the championship are known.

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- D. The championship tournament will consist of seven (7) games as follows:
Quarter Final Games – Quarterfinal games will be played at the site of the higher ranked team on either Friday or Saturday. The home team determines the start time.
Game #1 - 3 vs. 6; Game #2 - 4 vs. 5; Game #3 - 2 vs. 7; Game #4 - 1 vs. 8
Semifinal Games– semifinal games to be played at site of higher ranked team.
Game #5 Winner Game #1 vs. Winner Game #3 @ 7:00 p.m. or 3:00 PM
Game #6 Winner Game # 2 vs. Winner Game #4 @ 7:00 p.m. or 3:00 PM
(A 3:00 PM semifinal game is only permitted if host school does not have lights)

Note: if one school is hosting both a boys semifinal and a girls semifinal on the same day – one game may begin at 5:00 p.m. and the other game would be at 7:00 p.m. The soccer tournament director, SWC Commissioner and host school athletic director may move the site of an SWC semifinal soccer game if it is determined that the site is not playable.

Championship Game - Game at best site available to be determined after the semifinal games.

Game #7 Winner Game #5 vs. Winner Game #6 @ 7:00 p.m.

Note: Boys and Girls Championship games will be conducted as single stand-alone games at 7:00 p.m. at a pre-determined site.

V. RULES GOVERNING THE TOURNAMENT GAMES

- A. The quarterfinal and semifinal games will consist of two forty minute halves followed, if necessary, by two ten minute, sudden-victory periods. If a tie still exists, penalty kicks will be used, consistent with CIAC State Tournament Regulations.
- B. In the championship game, the game will consist of two 40-minute periods followed, if necessary, by two sudden-victory periods of ten minutes each. If the teams are still tied at the end of the two sudden-victory periods, **penalty kicks will be used to determine a winner.**
- C. The Athletic Director Chairperson will secure officials for all tournament games. *Three officials will be used for all boys and girls quarterfinal, semifinal and championship games. In SWC tournament games, if the competing teams are serviced by the same board, then all three officials from that board will officiate the game. If the competing teams are serviced by different boards, then the board that services the higher ranked team will assign the center referee and one assistant referee and the board that services the lower seeded team will assign the other assistant referee.*
- D. The higher ranked team will be considered the *home team* and will wear the home uniform, have the privilege of calling the coin toss, and will have the choice of bench.

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VI. PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING THE ALL-LEAGUE TEAM

There will be an SWC All-Conference Team, All-Colonial and All-Patriot Teams, and an Honorable Mention Team. The procedure for selecting the teams is as follows:

- 1) Each coach will submit to the Athletic Director in charge of soccer for the Conference, a list of six (6) nominations from his or her team **in order of preference**. An asterisk will be placed next to the names of the players that the coach would like to nominate for First Team All-SWC. All other players listed will be placed in the all-division pool. The actual number of nominations allotted per team will be determined by a team's order of finish in Conference play.
- 2) The order of finish will be determined by the Athletic Director in charge of that sport, using all the needed tiebreak procedures to break any ties that may occur. All teams will be ranked in order, top to bottom, regardless of division.
- 3) Each school will be notified of their order of finish immediately following the last regular season games and prior to the end-of-season meeting.
- 4) The top four teams (1-4) will automatically place six (6) players each into the All Conference/All-Division pool. The next four best teams (5-8), based on conference record, will place five (5) players each into the All-Conference/All-Division pool. The next four best teams (9-12), based on Conference record, will place four (4) players each into the All-Conference/All-Division pool. Each of the remaining teams will place three (3) players each into the All-Conference/All-Division pool.
5. The players from each team will be placed in the pool, taken in order, from the nomination form that each coach submitted with only players with asterisks next to their names being placed into the All-Conference pool and all the others being placed into the All-Colonial or All-Patriot Division pool.
6. The top twenty (20) asterisked players, as voted by the coaches (Coaches cannot vote for their own players) will comprise the SWC All-Conference Team. The remaining forty-six (46) players including any asterisked players who did not earn All-Conference honors will then be placed, by another vote, on either the All-Colonial (18 players) or All-Patriot (18 players) or named Honorable Mention (10 players). There is no limit to the number of players a school can have on the All-Conference Team.

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V. DIVISIONS

GIRLS

COLONIAL DIVISION

Bethel
Bunnell
Masuk
New Milford
Newtown
Pomperaug
Stratford

PATRIOT DIVISION

Joel Barlow
Brookfield
Immaculate
Kolbe Cathedral
New Fairfield
Notre Dame
Weston

BOYS

COLONIAL DIVISION

Bethel
Bunnell
Masuk
New Milford
Newtown
Pomperaug
Stratford

PATRIOT DIVISION

Brookfield
Immaculate
Joel Barlow
Kolbe Cathedral
New Fairfield
Notre Dame
Weston

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